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ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Memorandum to Principals

RE ST. GEORGE'S DAY AND EMPIRE DAY

The Minister of Education desires all the schools of Ontario to join with the other schools of the Dominion in setting apart St. George's Day, April the twenty-third, for a salute to Britain in recognition of her valiant stand against forces that seek to destroy the ideals that all lovers of democracy hold dear. In observing the day which commemorates the patron saint of England, the schools will co-operate with churches, St. George's Societies, and other organizations in Canada and the United States. It is fitting that the celebration should take the form of a message of thankfulness and confidence and that it should be addressed in particular to England, the centre and inspiration of the British Empire, which to-day stands as the heroic guardian of justice and liberty.

The Minister is withdrawing the usual Empire Day programme this year, and suggests that both St. George's Day and Empire Day be celebrated on Wednesday, April twenty-third. It is assumed that school buildings will be suitably decorated some days in advance with flags and bunting and with pictures of the King and the Queen, and of Winston Churchill and others. Invitations to be present and to take part in the celebration should be extended to all friends of the schools.

A programme should be prepared by teachers and pupils which should include devotional exercises conducted by local clergymen, addresses on subjects suited to the day, as well as both instrumental and choral music.

A committee representing the various provinces of the Dominion is preparing a booklet containing material which may be used in preparing programmes. Copies of this booklet will be sent to the schools within a few days.

TORONTO, March 27, 1941.